

TITLE: METHOD OF OPERATING AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/664,834 filed September 19, 2000. The disclosure in this prior application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Technical Field

This invention relates to a method of operating an internal combustion engine. More particularly, this invention relates to a method of operating a camless internal combustion engine that includes lubricating the engine using a low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition. In one embodiment, this invention also relates to a method of operating a camless engine that provides an increase in the time intervals required between oil changes.

Background of the Invention

A problem associated with conventional internal combustion engines equipped with exhaust gas aftertreatment devices (e.g., catalytic converters, particulate traps, catalyzed traps, etc.) is that the lubricating oils for such engines are used in both the crankcase as well as in high wear areas such as the valve train. Because these oils are used in high wear areas they usually contain extreme pressure (EP) agents, which typically contain metal and phosphorus, in order to be effective. During the operation of the engine these EP agents decompose and the resulting decomposition products eventually enter the aftertreatment device and often contribute to damaging the device. The problem therefore is to provide an engine and a lubricant system for that engine that adequately addresses the antiwear protection needs of the engine and yet reduces or avoids damage to the exhaust gas aftertreatment device.

Another problem associated with conventional internal combustion engines is that blow-by exhaust gases generated in the crankcase of the engine typically come into contact with the valve train. Blow-by exhaust gases have been found to be a primary factor affecting valve train wear. The problem therefore is to provide an engine and a lubricant system for that engine that avoids valve train wear.

Another problem associated with conventional internal combustion engines is that the time interval required between oil changes typically is less than the time interval required for other service items such as air filter replacements, coolant changes, brake replacements, and the like. Oil changes are viewed as one of the most aggravating and, in some cases, most costly maintenance aspects of vehicle ownership. Traditionally, oil change intervals have been extended by base stock and additive upgrades. Since the 1920s, for example, the extensions have been about 15X or greater. Regardless of this progress, the time intervals required between oil changes continue to lag behind the time intervals required for other service items. The problem therefore is to improve the lubricant technology for these engines so that the time intervals between oil changes can be extended to coincide with other service intervals.

The present invention provides a solution to each of these problems. With the present invention lubricating oil compositions characterized by a low-level or absence of EP agents containing metal and phosphorus are used in the engine and as a result the exhaust gas aftertreatment device is protected from harmful exposure to the decomposition products of these agents. Also, because the engines used with the inventive method are camless engines, there is no cam shaft or associate parts that can be damaged by blow-by exhaust gases. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the required oil change intervals for these engines are extended due to the fact that used engine oil is continuously or periodically removed from the engine and replaced with new oil.

Camless internal combustion engines are known. Examples are disclosed in U.S. Patents 5,255,641; 5,311,711; 5,367,990; 5,373,817; 5,377,631; 5,404,844; 5,419,301; 5,456,221; 5,456,222; 5,562,070; 5,572,961; 5,615,646; 5,619,965; 5,694,893; 5,709,178; 5,758,625; 5,970,956; and 6,024,060.

U.S. Patent 4,392,463 discloses a diesel engine having a first lubrication system, containing conventional engine oil, used to lubricate that section of the

engine subjected to excessive wear—the valve train including the cam shaft, valve lifters, rocker arm, valve stems, etc., and a second lubricant system, utilizing diesel fuel, for lubricating the remaining section of the engine—the crankshaft and associated parts, pistons, connecting rods, etc. By being exposed to crankcase blowby exhaust gases, diesel fuel used to lubricate the crankshaft, etc. absorbs pollutants and contaminants contained therein and recirculates these contaminants through the fuel system to be burned and exhausted. By constantly being lubricated with fresh lubricant, wear on these specific parts is reduced. The reference indicates that frequent lubrication changes have been eliminated because the diesel fuel/lubricant is continuously changed and circulated through the fuel system. Since the engine oil and the first lubrication system is not exposed to crankcase blowby exhausted gases, its useful life is prolonged, thus reducing the frequency of required oil changes.

Summary of the Invention

This invention relates to a method of operating a camless internal combustion engine, comprising:

(A) operating said engine using a normally liquid or gaseous fuel composition; and

(B) lubricating said engine using a low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition, said low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition optionally containing an extreme-pressure additive comprised of metal and phosphorus, provided the amount of phosphorus contributed to said low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition by said extreme-pressure additive does not exceed about 0.08% by weight based on the weight of said low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition.

In one embodiment, the inventive method further comprises the following additional steps:

(C) removing part of said low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition from said engine, said removed part of said low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition (i) being combined with said fuel composition and consumed with said fuel composition as said engine is operated or (ii) being combined with the exhaust gas from the engine and removed from said engine with said exhaust gas; and

(D) adding an additional amount of said low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition to said engine to replace said removed part of said low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition.

Brief Description of the Drawings

In the annexed drawings, like parts and features have like references.

Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of a camless internal combustion engine that is useful in accordance with one embodiment of the inventive method, said engine being equipped with an exhaust gas aftertreatment device.

Fig. 2 is a schematic illustration of a camless internal combustion engine that is useful with another embodiment of the inventive method, said engine being equipped with an exhaust gas aftertreatment device.

Fig. 3 is a schematic illustration of a camless internal combustion engine that is useful in accordance with another embodiment of the inventive method.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The term "camless" internal combustion engine is used herein to refer to any internal combustion engine that does not employ a camshaft for controlling the timing and lifting of the engine's intake and exhaust valves.

The term "low-phosphorus" refers to a material that has a phosphorus content that does not exceed about 0.08% by weight, and in one embodiment does not exceed about 0.07% by weight, and in one embodiment does not exceed about 0.06% by weight, and in one embodiment does not exceed about 0.05% by weight,

and in one embodiment does not exceed about 0.04% by weight, and in one embodiment does not exceed about 0.035% by weight, and in one embodiment does not exceed about 0.03% by weight, and in one embodiment does not exceed about 0.025% by weight, and in one embodiment does not exceed about 0.02% by weight, and in one embodiment does not exceed about 0.015% by weight, and in one embodiment does not exceed about 0.01% by weight.

The term "low-ash" refers to a material that when tested pursuant to the procedures in ASTM D874-96 provides a metal-containing ash content of up to about 2% by weight, and in one embodiment up to about 1.5% by weight, and in one embodiment up to about 1% by weight, and in one embodiment up to about 0.6% by weight.

The term "ashless" refers to a material that when tested pursuant to the procedures in ASTM D874-96 does not produce a metal-containing ash. The ashless lubricating oil compositions of the invention are so called despite the fact that, depending on their constitution, they may upon combustion yield a non-volatile non-metal containing material such as boric oxide, phosphorus pentoxide or silicon oxide.

The term "exhaust gas aftertreatment device" is used herein to refer to any device used in the exhaust gas system of an internal combustion engine to reduce pollutants in the exhaust gas. These include catalytic converters, particulate traps, catalyzed traps, and the like.

The term "consumable oil" is used herein to refer to an oil composition that may be either (i) mixed with and consumed with the fuel composition used in the inventive method, or (ii) mixed with the exhaust gas produced during the operation of the inventive method and removed from the engine as said method is performed.

The term "non-consumable oil" is used herein to refer to an oil composition that is not a consumable oil.

The term "hydrocarbyl" denotes a group having a carbon atom directly attached to the remainder of the molecule and having a hydrocarbon or predominantly hydrocarbon character within the context of this invention. Such groups include the following:

5 (1) Purely hydrocarbon groups; that is, aliphatic, (e.g., alkyl or alkenyl), alicyclic (e.g., cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl), aromatic, aliphatic- and alicyclic-substituted aromatic, aromatic-substituted aliphatic and alicyclic groups, and the like, as well as cyclic groups wherein the ring is completed through another portion of the molecule (that is, any two indicated substituents may together form an alicyclic group). Such groups are known to those skilled in the art. Examples include
10 methyl, ethyl, octyl, decyl, octadecyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, etc.

(2) Substituted hydrocarbon groups; that is, groups containing non-hydrocarbon substituents which do not alter the predominantly hydrocarbon character of the group. Those skilled in the art will be aware of suitable substituents. Examples include hydroxy, nitro, cyano, alkoxy, acyl, etc.
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(3) Hetero groups; that is, groups which, while predominantly hydrocarbon in character, contain atoms other than carbon in a chain or ring otherwise composed of carbon atoms. Suitable hetero atoms will be apparent to those skilled in the art and include, for example, nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur.

20 In general, no more than about three substituents or hetero atoms, and preferably no more than one, will be present for each 10 carbon atoms in the hydrocarbyl group.

Terms such as "alkyl-based," "aryl-based," and the like have meanings analogous to the above with respect to alkyl groups, aryl groups and the like.

25 The term "hydrocarbon-based" has the same meaning and can be used interchangeably with the term hydrocarbyl when referring to molecular groups having a carbon atom attached directly to the remainder of a molecule.

The term "lower" as used herein in conjunction with terms such as hydrocarbyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, and the like, is intended to describe such groups which contain a total of up to 7 carbon atoms.

The term "oil-soluble" refers to a material that is soluble in mineral oil to the extent of at least about one gram per liter at 25°C.

The inventive method will be initially discussed with reference to the drawings. The engines 10 (Fig. 1), 10A (Fig. 2) and 10B (Fig. 3) may be spark-ignition internal combustion engines or compression ignition internal combustion engines. These engines have camless valve trains and are lubricated with a low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition.

Referring to Fig. 1, the engine 10 is comprised of a plurality of cylinders C_1 - C_n . The number of cylinders n may range from 1 to about 12, and in one embodiment about 4 to about 8. In one embodiment n is 4, and in one embodiment n is 5, and in one embodiment n is 6, and in one embodiment n is 8. Each cylinder includes a piston 12. The pistons are connected to a crankshaft 14. Each cylinder also has an intake valve 16, exhaust valve 18 and an injector 20. Alternatively, the fuel injector 20 may be positioned in the intake system such as in the air intake manifold. The intake valves 16 and exhaust valves 18 are electrohydraulically actuatable in response to control signals provided by an electronic controller (not shown). The injectors 20 are electrically actuatable in response to control signals provided by the electronic controller. The electronic controller produces control signals responsive to the rotational position of the crankshaft 14. Although each of the cylinders C_1 - C_n is shown with one intake valve 16 and one exhaust valve 18, it is to be understood that each cylinder may employ two to about six valves (e.g., two intake valves and one exhaust valve; two exhaust valves and one intake valve; two intake valves and two exhaust valves; etc.).

The engine 10 has a fuel system 22, which includes a fuel tank, fuel pump, fuel injectors 20, fuel filter, and the like. The fuel system 22 is provided for

advancing fuel to the cylinders. An air intake system, shown generally by the directional arrows 24, is provided for advancing air to the cylinders. An exhaust gas system, shown generally by the directional arrows 26, is provided for removing exhaust gas from the cylinders. An exhaust gas aftertreatment device 28 (e.g., catalytic converter, particulate trap, catalyzed trap, and the like) and an exhaust muffler 30 are provided as part of the exhaust gas system 26. The engine 10 includes a pump (not shown) for circulating lubricating oil throughout the engine, and an oil sump 32.

The low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition used in the engine 10 may be a consumable oil composition or a non-consumable oil composition. The engine 10 operates in the normal sequence with air entering the cylinders through the intake valves 16 and fuel entering through the fuel injectors 20. The resulting mixture of air and fuel undergoes combustion in the cylinders. Exhaust gas is removed from the cylinders through exhaust valves 18 and from there through the exhaust gas aftertreatment device 28 and exhaust muffler 30. During the operation of engine 10, the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition circulates through the engine in the normal manner to lubricate the desired engine components.

In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2, the engine 10A is identical to the engine 10 illustrated in Fig. 1 with the exception that the engine 10A is equipped with a make-up oil reservoir 34 and a pump or metering device 36 for pumping new oil from the make-up oil reservoir 34 to the engine 10A. The engine 10A is adapted for using a consumable lubricating oil composition as the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition.

During the operation of engine 10A, a portion of the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition used in the engine is pumped from oil sump 32 to fuel system 22, as indicated by directional arrow 33, where it is combined with the fuel. The introduction of the oil into the fuel may occur in one or

more of the fuel tank, fuel return line, fuel injectors, intake manifold, positive crankcase ventilation (PCV) system, exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) system or intake and/or exhaust valve guides. Alternatively, the oil may be mixed with air in the air intake system 24 of the engine 10A.

5 The resulting combination of fuel and oil is comprised of about 0.01% to about 5% by weight of said oil, and in one embodiment about 0.05% to about 3% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.1% to about 1.5% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.1% to about 1% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.1% to about 0.7% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.1% to about 0.5% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.2% to about 0.3% by weight of said oil, with the remainder being fuel.

10 Alternatively, as shown in the dashed line 38 in Fig. 2, the portion of the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition removed from the oil sump 32 may be advanced to the exhaust gas system 26 where it is combined with the exhaust gas from the engine upstream of the exhaust gas aftertreatment device 28. The introduction of the oil into the exhaust gas may occur in the exhaust gas system 26 at any point upstream of (i.e., prior to entry into) the exhaust gas aftertreatment device 28. The sequence of removing used oil from the engine 10A and replacing it with new oil may be performed continuously or intermittently during the operation of the engine 10A.

15 In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 3, the engine 10B is identical to the engine 10A illustrated in Fig. 2 with the exception that the engine 10B does not have an exhaust gas aftertreatment device 28. The engine 10B may be a compression ignition engine. The engine 10B uses a consumable lubricating oil composition as the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition. The engine 10B is operated in the same manner as the engine 10A with the exception that when the portion of the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition removed from the oil sump 32 is advanced to the exhaust gas system 26, as

indicated in dashed line 38 in Fig. 3, it may be combined with the exhaust gas at any point in the exhaust gas system.

The Camless Engine

The camless engine that may be operated in accordance with the inventive method may be any internal combustion engine employing a camless valve train. These include compression ignition engines and spark ignition engines, including four-stroke spark ignition engines. These camless engines are characterized by the absence of a camshaft for controlling the timing and lift of the intake and exhaust valves. The intake and exhaust valves of the camless engines employed with the inventive method may be electrically actuated, hydraulically actuated or electrohydraulically actuated. Each valve can vary its lift schedule for various engine operating conditions.

The camless engines that may be operated in accordance with the inventive method include those employing the engine valve assemblies disclosed in U.S. Patents 5,255,641; 5,367,990; 5,373,817; 5,377,631; 5,404,844; 5,419,301; 5,456,221; 5,456,222; 5,562,070; and 5,572,961, which are incorporated by reference herein for their disclosures of such valve assemblies. Briefly, U.S. Patent 5,255,641 discloses a variable engine valve control system wherein each of the reciprocating intake and/or exhaust valves is hydraulically controlled and includes a piston subjected to fluid pressure acting on surfaces at both ends of the piston. The space at one end of the piston is connected to a source of high pressure fluid while the space at the other end is connected to a source of high pressure fluid and a source of low pressure fluid, and disconnected from each through action of controlling mechanisms such as solenoid valves. The controlling mechanisms may include a rotary hydraulic distributor coupled with each solenoid valve, thereby permitting each solenoid valve to control operation of a plurality of engine valves in succession. Equal air delivery to all engine cylinders having the aforementioned variable valve control system is assured by controlling electric pulses of variable

duration and timing, the system involving mechanisms for making individual modifications of the durations of the electric pulses controlling each individual actuator, and the modifications being of such nature as to assure that all actuators control the engine intake (or exhaust) valves in an identical manner to assure equal valve strokes in all cylinders.

U.S. Patents 5,367,990 and 5,404,844 disclose a variable engine valve control system wherein each of the reciprocating engine valves is hydraulically or electrically controlled and can vary its lift schedule for various engine operating conditions. During part load operation of the engine, the intake valve is opened and the exhaust valve is closed during the exhaust stroke, prior to a piston's top dead center position, so that the intake port receives exhaust gas, which is then returned to the cylinder during the intake stroke to eliminate the need for an external exhaust gas recirculation system and to improve fuel evaporation into the intake air. Further, during part load, the intake valve is closed before the end of the intake stroke and the intake air is heated by a heat exchanger prior to entry into the cylinder to eliminate the need for air throttling without compromising the compression ratio and ignition characteristics.

U.S. Patent 5,373,817 discloses a electrohydraulic engine valve control system in a four valve per cylinder engine wherein each of pair of intake and/or exhaust valves in each cylinder is hydraulically controlled by a separate set of solenoid valves. Each engine valve includes a piston subjected to fluid pressure acting on surfaces at both ends with the volume at one end connected to a source of high pressure fluid while a volume at the other end is selectively connected to a source of high pressure fluid and a source of low pressure fluid, and disconnected from each through action of the solenoid valves. Each pair of corresponding valves is linked hydraulically together and may be moved in unison or one may have reduced travel relative to the other via a valve deactivator, including one valve being completely deactivated. This difference in travel between the pair of valves accounts

for various engine operating conditions and manufacturing tolerances. Equal air delivery to all engine cylinders having the aforementioned variable valve control system is assured by controlling electric pulses of variable duration and timing along with actuation of the valve deactivator.

5 U.S. Patent 5,377,631 discloses operating a four cycle engine in skip-cycle manner which includes providing the engine with a valve control so that each intake and exhaust valve for each cylinder can be individually activated or deactivated essentially instantaneously to provide a skip-cycle pattern that varies as a function of the load. Individual of the valves permits changing the purpose of the stroke off 10 each piston of each deactivated cylinder from compression to exhaust or intake to expansion, as the case may be, to assure firing of all of the engine cylinders within as short a period as one skip cycle to prevent cylinder cooldown, which promotes emissions. Unthrottled operation also is provided by closing the intake and exhaust valves in a particular sequence during skip cycle operation, and controlling the 15 intake valve closure timing during load periods between skip cycle periods to continue unthrottled operation for all load levels. Further individual activation or deactivation of the fuel injectors and spark plugs enhances the skip cycle, unthrottled operation.

20 U.S. Patent 5,419,301 discloses a variable camless engine valve control system wherein each of the reciprocating intake and/or exhaust valves is hydraulically controlled. Each valve includes a piston which is subjected to fluid pressure acting on surfaces at both ends of the piston, is connected to a source of high pressure fluid in one volume while the volume at the other end is connected to a source of high pressure fluid and a source of low pressure fluid, and 25 disconnected from each through action of controlling mechanisms such as a computer controlling solenoid valves. Optimum intake air and residual gas quantities in each engine cylinder having the aforementioned variable valve control system is assured by controlling electric pulses of variable duration and timing. The pulse

timing and duration are calculated based upon values in permanent memory of a computer corresponding to information obtained from sensors and correction values from a correction memory corresponding to feedback from other sensors.

U.S. Patents 5,456,221 and 5,456,222 disclose engine valve assemblies within electrohydraulic camless valvetrains which cooperate with hydraulic systems having low pressure branches and high pressure branches to selectively open and close each valve. Each valve is affixed to a valve piston within a piston chamber. A volume below the piston is connected to high pressure branch and a volume above the piston is selectively connected to the high pressure branch or the low pressure branch to effect engine valve opening and closing. U.S. Patent 5,456,221 discloses the use of a rotary valve to effect valve opening and closing, and U.S. Patent 5,456,222 discloses the use of a spool valve.

U.S. Patent 5,562,070 discloses an engine valve assembly within an electrohydraulic camless valvetrain which cooperates with a hydraulic system having a low pressure branch and a high pressure branch to selectively open and close each valve. Each valve is affixed to a valve piston within a piston chamber. A volume below piston is connected to high pressure branch and a volume above piston is selectively connected to the high pressure branch or the low pressure branch via a rotary valve, to effect engine valve opening and closing. A motor effects the rotation of the rotary valve. The rotary valve includes an internal hollow operatively and selectively connected to windows in a valve sleeve to allow high pressure and low pressure fluid flow through the valve.

U.S. Patent 5,572,961 discloses an electrohydraulic engine valve control system in a multi-valve engine wherein multiple intake (or exhaust) valves in each cylinder are hydraulically controlled by a set of hydraulic valves. Each engine valve includes a valve piston subjected to fluid pressure acting on surfaces at both ends with the volume at one end connected to a source of high pressure fluid while a

5 volume at the other end is selectively connected to a source of high pressure fluid and a source of low pressure fluid, and disconnected from each through action of the hydraulic valves. Each group of corresponding engine valves is linked hydraulically together and can be moved in unison. Balancing springs operatively engaging each valve piston, to account for manufacturing tolerances and other factors, by balancing the motion of the engine valves while opening and closing.

10 The camless engines that may be used include those employing the outwardly opening valve systems disclosed in U.S. Patents 5,615,646; 5,694,893; and 5,709,178, which are incorporated herein by reference for their disclosures of such valve systems. Briefly, U.S. Patent 5,615,646 discloses an outwardly opening valve system for an engine which includes an engine having a hollow piston cylinder in fluid communication with a gas passageway via an opening. The engine also has a piston bore that opens to the hollow piston cylinder. A portion of the opening includes an outward valve seat positioned adjacent the gas passageway. An outward valve member with a valve face is positioned substantially in the gas passageway. The valve member is moveable between a closed position in which the valve face is against the valve seat closing the opening and an open position in which the valve face is away from the valve seat. An intensifier piston is positioned to reciprocate in the piston bore and has one end contacting gas within the hollow piston cylinder. A coupling linkage interconnects the intensifier piston to the outward valve member so that the valve member is held closed during combustion by exploiting combustion pressure within the hollow piston cylinder.

20 U.S. Patent 5,694,893 discloses an outward opening valve system which includes an engine having a fluid cavity in fluid communication with an accumulator chamber by a transfer passage, a hollow piston cylinder in fluid communication with a gas passageway via an opening, and an intensifier bore that opens to the hollow piston cylinder. The opening includes an outward valve seat adjacent the gas

passageway. An outward valve member with a valve face is moveable between a closed position in which the valve face is against the valve seat closing the opening and an open position in which the valve face is away from the valve seat. A compression spring is utilized to bias the outward valve member toward its open position. An intensifier piston is positioned in the intensifier bore with one end exposed to fluid pressure in the hollow piston cylinder. A coupling linkage interconnects the intensifier piston to the outward valve member. An accumulator plunger is positioned in the accumulator chamber and moveable between a release position and a storage position, but is biased toward its release position by a compression spring. A control valve member is positioned in the transfer passage and has a first position in which the accumulator chamber is open to the fluid cavity and a second position in which the accumulator chamber is closed to the fluid cavity.

U.S. Patent 5,709,178 discloses an outwardly opening valve system for an engine which includes an actuator body having a guide bore, a fluid cavity filled with hydraulic fluid that opens to a valve plunger bore, an intensifier plunger bore and a re-supply passageway. A check valve positioned in the re-supply passageway is operable to prevent back flow of hydraulic fluid from the fluid cavity. An outward valve member with a valve face is positioned to reciprocate in the guide bore. An intensifier plunger is slidably positioned in the intensifier plunger bore. A valve plunger is slidably positioned in the valve plunger bore. An over center cam mechanism includes a cam mounted to the actuator body and rotatable about a pivot pin, a push rod with one end in contact with the cam and an other end in contact with the outward valve member, and finally the pivot pin is attached to the valve plunger. A solenoid is mounted on the actuator body and includes a control rod. A computer is in communication with and capable of controlling the solenoid.

Camless engines employing the method for determining the rotational position of the crankshaft disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,311,771 may be used. This patent is incorporated herein by reference for its disclosure of such method. Briefly, this method includes monitoring the rotation of the crankshaft and responsively producing a crankshaft pulsetrain. A clock signal is produced having a predetermined frequency. The clock signal and the crankshaft pulsetrain are received. Each pulse of the crankshaft pulsetrain is sampled, and responsively the period of each sampled pulse is determined. Signals representative of the determined pulse periods are produced. The method further includes receiving the determined pulse period signals, and responsively determining a value which is predictive of a period of the next pulse to be produced. A signal representative of the predictive value is produced, and the predictive value signal is received. An intermediate position signal based on the predictive value is produced. The intermediate position signal is representative of a predetermined angular rotation of the crankshaft.

U.S. Patent 5,619,965 is incorporated herein by reference for its disclosure of a camless engine capable of operating in either a positive power mode or a compression release engine braking mode. Briefly, this patent discloses a camless internal combustion engine which has electronically or computer controlled, electrically operated hydraulic actuators for selectively opening the engine cylinder valves. The pressure of the hydraulic fluid available for application to the hydraulic actuators is automatically adjusted from a relatively low pressure during positive power mode to a relatively high pressure during compression release engine braking mode. The stroke lengths of the engine cylinder valves may be automatically adjusted for various engine operating conditions using feedback loops that include sensors for detecting the amount of opening of each engine cylinder valve whose stroke length is to be controlled in this manner. The shapes of the

valve opening and closing trajectories as a function of engine crank angle may be varied.

U.S. Patent 5,758,625 is incorporated herein by reference for its disclosure of a method for synchronizing an internal combustion engine without a cam position sensor . Briefly, this patent discloses a method of generating a phase signal over 720 degrees for an internal-combustion engine which comprises a multi-point electronic injection system operating sequentially, permitting firing in only some of the cylinders during the starting stage and detecting the angular position in which the first firing occurs.

U.S. Patent 5,970,956 is incorporated herein by reference for its disclosure of a control module which controls camless hydraulically driven intake and exhaust valves and an hydraulically driven fuel injector of an internal combustion engine. Briefly, the module contains a valve assembly to control the intake valve, a valve assembly to control the exhaust valve and a valve assembly to control the fuel injector. The valve assemblies preferably each contain a pair of solenoid actuated two-way spool valves. The solenoids are actuated by digital pulses provided by an electronic assembly within the module. The solenoid actuated spool valves control the flow of a hydraulic fluid to and from the fuel injector and the intake and exhaust valves. The hydraulic fluid opens and closes the intake and exhaust valves. The hydraulic fluid also actuates the fuel injector to eject a fuel into a combustion chamber of the engine. The electronic assembly of each module can be connected to a main microprocessor which provides commands to each assembly. Each electronic assembly processes the command, feedback signals from the hydraulically actuated devices and historical data to insure a desired operation of the fuel injector and intake and exhaust valves.

U.S. Patent 6,024,060 is incorporated herein by reference for its disclosure of an internal combustion engine valve operating mechanism. Briefly, this patent

discloses a reciprocating valve actuation and control system which includes a poppet valve moveable between a first and second position; a source of pressurized hydraulic fluid; a hydraulic actuator including an actuator piston coupled to the poppet valve and reciprocating between a first and second position responsive to flow of the pressurized hydraulic fluid to the hydraulic actuator; an electrically operated valve controlling flow of the pressurized hydraulic fluid to the actuator; and an engine computer that generates electrical pulses to control the electrically operated valve. The electrically operated valve comprises a three path rotary latched magnetic motor actuating a rotary valve portion having a housing, a rotor, and a stator receiving and supplying hydraulic fluid pressure to the rotor, which alternately directs the hydraulic fluid pressure to the valve cylinder for opening of the valve, or to return to the engine oil sump, for closing the valve. In one embodiment, the hydraulic actuator comprises a self-contained cartridge assembly including an actuator piston with dampers for damping motion of the actuator piston, limiting the actuator stroke to assure soft seating of the actuator, and to avoid overshoot during the engine valve opening stroke and the engine valve return stroke. The electro-hydraulic valves are electrically controlled by the engine computer, which generates electrical signals carried to the electro-hydraulic valves. The engine computer senses conventional engine variables, and optimizes performance of the valve actuation and control system according to preestablished guidelines, with information being supplied to the engine computer by sensors. The engine computer controls all aspects of engine performance, interfaces with all of the peripheral sensors, and calculates fuel parameters, ignition timing and engine valve timing based upon prior mapping of the engine. In this manner the engine can be controlled so as to provide maximum fuel economy, minimum emissions, maximum engine torque, or a compromise between these parameters.

The Normally Liquid or Gaseous Fuel

5 The normally liquid or gaseous fuel may be a hydrocarbonaceous petroleum distillate fuel such as motor gasoline as defined by ASTM Specification D439 or diesel fuel as defined by ASTM Specification D396. Normally liquid hydrocarbon fuels comprising materials such as alcohols, ethers, organo-nitro compounds and the like (e.g., methanol, ethanol, diethyl ether, methyl ethyl ether, nitromethane) are also within the scope of this invention as are liquid fuels derived from vegetable or mineral sources such as corn, alfalfa, shale and coal. Examples include mixtures of gasoline and ethanol, and diesel fuel and ether.

10 In one embodiment, the fuel is gasoline, that is, a mixture of hydrocarbons having an ASTM distillation range from about 60°C. at the 10% distillation point to about 205°C. at the 90% distillation point. In one embodiment, the gasoline fuel composition is an unleaded fuel composition. In one embodiment, the gasoline fuel composition is a chlorine-free or low-chlorine gasoline characterized by a chlorine content of no more than about 10 ppm. In one embodiment, the gasoline fuel composition is a low-sulfur fuel characterized by a sulfur content of no more than about 300 ppm, and in one embodiment no more than about 150 ppm, and in one embodiment no more than about 100 ppm, and in one embodiment no more than about 50 ppm, and in one embodiment no more than about 25 ppm, and in one embodiment no more than about 10 ppm.

20 The diesel fuels that are useful may be any diesel fuel. These diesel fuels typically have a 90% point distillation temperature in the range of about 300°C to about 390°C, and in one embodiment about 330°C to about 350°C. The viscosity for these fuels typically ranges from about 1.3 to about 24 centistokes at 40°C. The diesel fuels can be classified as any of Grade Nos. 1-D, 2-D or 4-D as specified in ASTM D975. These diesel fuels may contain alcohols and esters. In one embodiment the diesel fuel has a sulfur content of up to about 0.05% by weight

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(low-sulfur diesel fuel) as determined by the test method specified in ASTM D2622-87.

The fuel compositions may contain one or more fuel additives known in the art for enhancing the performance of the fuel. These include deposit preventers or modifiers, dyes, cetane improvers, antioxidants such as 2,6-di-tertiary-butyl-4-methyl-phenol, corrosion inhibitors such as alkylated succinic acids and anhydrides, bacteriostatic agents, gum inhibitors, metal deactivators, demulsifiers, upper cylinder lubricants, anti-icing agents, ashless dispersants, and the like.

The fuel additives may be added directly to the fuel, or they may be diluted with a normally liquid organic diluent such as naphtha, benzene, toluene, or xylene to form an additive concentrate prior to addition to the fuel. These concentrates typically contain from about 10% to about 90% by weight diluent.

The fuel may be a gaseous fuel such as natural gas. The fuel may be a fuel that is stored as a liquid and used in its gaseous form. Examples include propane and dimethyl ether.

The Low-Phosphorus or Phosphorus-Free Lubricating Oil Composition.

The low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition may be a consumable oil composition or a non-consumable oil composition.

The consumable oil composition, in one embodiment, may be comprised of components that add only C, H, O or N to the lubricating oil composition. In one embodiment, Si may be present. Any other elements that may be present are present as impurities and as such are at relatively low concentrations. The concentration of each of these impurities (prior to use of the oil in the engine) is typically less than about 500 ppm, and in one embodiment less than about 250 ppm, and in one embodiment less than about 100 ppm, and in one embodiment less than about 50 ppm, and in one embodiment less than about 25 ppm, and in one embodiment less than about 10 ppm. This lubricating oil composition is characterized by the absence of EP additives comprised of metal (e.g., zinc) and phosphorus. In one embodiment, this lubricating oil composition is characterized

by the absence of detergents or dispersants of the ash-producing type. In one embodiment, this lubricating oil composition is characterized by a sulfur content of no more than about 250 ppm, and in one embodiment no more than about 200 ppm, and in one embodiment about 5 to about 250 ppm, and in one embodiment about 5 to about 200 ppm, and in one embodiment about 5 to about 150 ppm, and in one embodiment about 5 to about 100 ppm, and in one embodiment about 5 to about 50 ppm, and in one embodiment about 5 to about 25 ppm, and in one embodiment about 5 to about 15 ppm, as measured by inductively coupled plasma (ICP) or x-ray techniques. In one embodiment, this lubricating oil composition is sulfur free.

The non-consumable oil composition is the same as the consumable oil composition with the exception that the non-consumable oil may include a minor amount of one or more EP additives comprised of metal (e.g., zinc) and phosphorus, provided that the phosphorus content of the oil composition provided by such EP additives is no more than about 0.08% by weight. The non-consumable oil composition may also contain one or more detergents or dispersants of the ash-producing type provided the total amount of metal-containing ash in the lubricating oil composition does not exceed about 1.5% by weight, and in one embodiment about 1.2% by weight, and in one embodiment about 1.0% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.8% by weight as determined by the test method in ASTM D874-96.

The low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition is a lubricating oil composition that is comprised of one or more base oils which are generally present in a major amount (i.e. an amount greater than about 50% by weight). Generally, the base oil is present in an amount greater than about 60%, or greater than about 70%, or greater than about 80% by weight of the lubricating oil composition.

The low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition may have a viscosity of up to about 16.3 cSt at 100°C, and in one embodiment about 5 to

about 16.3 cSt at 100°C, and in one embodiment about 6 to about 13 cSt at 100°C. In one embodiment, the lubricating oil composition has an SAE Viscosity Grade of 0W, 0W-20, 0W-30, 0W-40, 0W-50, 0W-60, 5W, 5W-20, 5W-30, 5W-40, 5W-50, 5W-60, 10W, 10W-20, 10W-30, 10W-40 OR 10W-50.

5 The low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition may have a high-temperature/high-shear viscosity at 150°C as measured by the procedure in ASTM D4683 of up to about 4 centipoise, and in one embodiment up to about 3.7 centipoise, and in one embodiment about 2 to about 4 centipoise, and in one embodiment about 2.2 to about 3.7 centipoise, and in one embodiment about 2.7 to about 3.5 centipoise.

10 The base oil used in the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition may be a natural oil, synthetic oil or mixture thereof. The natural oils that are useful include animal oils and vegetable oils (e.g., castor oil, lard oil) as well as mineral lubricating oils such as liquid petroleum oils and solvent treated or acid-treated mineral lubricating oils of the paraffinic, naphthenic or mixed paraffinic--naphthenic types. Oils derived from coal or shale are also useful. Synthetic lubricating oils include hydrocarbon oils such as polymerized and interpolymerized olefins (e.g., polybutylenes, polypropylenes, propylene isobutylene copolymers, etc.); poly(1-hexenes), poly-(1-octenes), poly(1-decenes), etc. and mixtures thereof; 15 alkylbenzenes (e.g., dodecylbenzenes, tetradecylbenzenes, dinonylbenzenes, di-(2-ethylhexyl)benzenes, etc.); polyphenyls (e.g., biphenyls, terphenyls, alkylated polyphenyls, etc.); alkylated diphenyl ethers and alkylated diphenyl sulfides and the derivatives, analogs and homologs thereof and the like.

20 Alkylene oxide polymers and interpolymers and derivatives thereof where the terminal hydroxyl groups have been modified by esterification, etherification, etc., constitute another class of known synthetic lubricating oils that can be used. These are exemplified by the oils prepared through polymerization of ethylene oxide or propylene oxide, the alkyl and aryl ethers of these polyoxyalkylene polymers (e.g., 25

5 methyl-polyisopropylene glycol ether having an average molecular weight of about 1000, diphenyl ether of polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of about 500-1000, diethyl ether of polypropylene glycol having a molecular weight of about 1000-1500, etc.) or mono- and polycarboxylic esters thereof, for example, the acetic acid esters, mixed C₃₋₈ fatty acid esters, or the C₁₃Oxo acid diester of tetraethylene glycol.

10 Another suitable class of synthetic lubricating oils that can be used comprises the esters of dicarboxylic acids (e.g., phthalic acid, succinic acid, alkyl succinic acids, alkenyl succinic acids, maleic acid, azelaic acid, suberic acid, sebacic acid, fumaric acid, adipic acid, linoleic acid dimer, malonic acid, alkyl malonic acids, alkenyl malonic acids, etc.) with a variety of alcohols (e.g., butyl alcohol, hexyl alcohol, dodecyl alcohol, 2-ethylhexyl alcohol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol monoether, propylene glycol, etc.) Specific examples of these esters include dibutyl adipate, di(2-ethylhexyl) sebacate, di-n-hexyl fumarate, dioctyl sebacate, diisooctyl azelate, diisodecyl azelate, dioctyl phthalate, didecyl phthalate, dieicosyl sebacate, the 2-ethylhexyl diester of linoleic acid dimer, the complex ester formed by reacting one mole of sebacic acid with two moles of tetraethylene glycol and two moles of 2-ethylhexanoic acid and the like.

15 20 Esters useful as synthetic oils also include those made from C₅ to C₁₂ monocarboxylic acids and polyols and polyol ethers such as neopentyl glycol, trimethylol propane, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, tripentaerythritol, etc.

25 The oil can be a poly-alpha-olefin (PAO). Typically, the poly-alpha-olefins are derived from monomers having from about 4 to about 30, or from about 4 to about 20, or from about 6 to about 16 carbon atoms. Examples of useful PAOs include those derived from octene, decene, mixtures thereof, and the like. These PAOs may have a viscosity from about 2 to about 15, or from about 3 to about 12, or from about 4 to about 8 cSt at 100°C. Examples of useful PAOs include 4 cSt at 100°C

poly-alpha-olefins, 6 cSt at 100°C poly-alpha-olefins, and mixtures thereof. Mixtures of mineral oil with the foregoing poly-alpha-olefins may be used.

Unrefined, refined and rerefined oils, either natural or synthetic (as well as mixtures of two or more of any of these) of the type disclosed hereinabove can be used in the lubricants of the present invention. Unrefined oils are those obtained directly from a natural or synthetic source without further purification treatment. For example, a shale oil obtained directly from retorting operations, a petroleum oil obtained directly from primary distillation or ester oil obtained directly from an esterification process and used without further treatment would be an unrefined oil. Refined oils are similar to the unrefined oils except they have been further treated in one or more purification steps to improve one or more properties. Many such purification techniques are known to those skilled in the art such as solvent extraction, secondary distillation, acid or base extraction, filtration, percolation, etc. Rerefined oils are obtained by processes similar to those used to obtain refined oils applied to refined oils which have been already used in service. Such rerefined oils are also known as reclaimed or reprocessed oils and often are additionally processed by techniques directed to removal of spent additives and oil breakdown products.

In one embodiment, the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition further comprises an acylated nitrogen-containing compound having a substituent of at least about 10 aliphatic carbon atoms. These compounds typically function as ashless dispersants in lubricating oil compositions.

A number of acylated, nitrogen-containing compounds having a substituent of at least about 10 aliphatic carbon atoms and made by reacting a carboxylic acid acylating agent with an amino compound are known to those skilled in the art. In such compositions the acylating agent is linked to the amino compound through an imido, amido, amidine or salt linkage. The substituent of at least about 10 aliphatic carbon atoms may be in either the carboxylic acid acylating agent derived portion

of the molecule or in the amino compound derived portion of the molecule. In one embodiment, it is in the acylating agent portion. The acylating agent can vary from formic acid and its acyl derivatives to acylating agents having high molecular weight aliphatic substituents of up to about 5,000, 10,000 or 20,000 carbon atoms. The amino compounds are characterized by the presence within their structure of at least one HN< group.

In one embodiment, the acylating agent is a mono- or polycarboxylic acid (or reactive equivalent thereof) such as a substituted succinic or propionic acid and the amino compound is a polyamine or mixture of polyamines, most typically, a mixture of ethylene polyamines. The amine also may be a hydroxyalkyl-substituted polyamine. The aliphatic substituent in such acylating agents typically averages at least about 30 or at least about 50 and up to about 400 carbon atoms.

Illustrative hydrocarbon based groups containing at least 10 carbon atoms are n-decyl, n-dodecyl, tetrapropylene, n-octadecyl, oleyl, chlorooctadecyl, triicontanyl, etc. Generally, the hydrocarbon-based substituents are made from homo- or interpolymers (e.g., copolymers, terpolymers) of mono- and di-olefins having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, such as ethylene, propylene, 1-butene, isobutene, butadiene, isoprene, 1-hexene, 1-octene, etc. Typically, these olefins are 1-monoolefins. The substituent can also be derived from the halogenated (e.g., chlorinated or brominated) analogs of such homo- or interpolymers. The substituent can, however, be made from other sources, such as monomeric high molecular weight alkenes (e.g., 1-tetracontene) and chlorinated analogs and hydrochlorinated analogs thereof, aliphatic petroleum fractions, particularly paraffin waxes and cracked and chlorinated analogs and hydrochlorinated analogs thereof, white oils, synthetic alkenes such as those produced by the Ziegler-Natta process (e.g., poly(ethylene) greases) and other sources known to those skilled in the art. Any unsaturation in the substituent may be reduced or eliminated by hydrogenation according to procedures known in the art.

The hydrocarbon-based substituents are substantially saturated, that is, they contain no more than one carbon-to-carbon unsaturated bond for every ten carbon-to-carbon single bonds present. Usually, they contain no more than one carbon-to-carbon non-aromatic unsaturated bond for every 50 carbon-to-carbon bonds present.

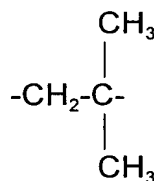
The hydrocarbon-based substituents are also substantially aliphatic in nature, that is, they contain no more than one non-aliphatic moiety (cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or aromatic) group of 6 or less carbon atoms for every 10 carbon atoms in the substituent. Usually, however, the substituents contain no more than one such non-aliphatic group for every 50 carbon atoms, and in many cases, they contain no such non-aliphatic groups at all; that is, the typical substituents are purely aliphatic. Typically, these purely aliphatic substituents are alkyl or alkenyl groups.

Specific examples of the substantially saturated hydrocarbon- based substituents containing an average of more than about 30 carbon atoms are the following:

- a mixture of poly(ethylene/propylene) groups of about 35 to about 70 carbon atoms;
- a mixture of the oxidatively or mechanically degraded poly(ethylene/propylene) groups of about 35 to about 70 carbon atoms;
- a mixture of poly(propylene/1-hexene) groups of about 80 to about 150 carbon atoms;
- a mixture of poly(isobutene) groups having an average of about 50 to about 200 carbon atoms.

A useful source of the substituents are poly(isobutene)s obtained by polymerization of a C₄ refinery stream having a butene content of about 35 to about 75 weight percent and isobutene content of about 30 to about 60 weight percent in the presence of a Lewis acid catalyst such as aluminum trichloride or boron

trifluoride. These polybutenes contain predominantly (greater than 80% of total repeating units) isobutene repeating units of the configuration



In one embodiment, the substituent is a polyisobutene group derived from a polyisobutene having a high methylvinylidene isomer content, that is, at least about 70% methylvinylidene, and in one embodiment at least about 80% methylvinylidene. Suitable high methylvinylidene polyisobutenes include those prepared using boron trifluoride catalysts. The preparation of such polyisobutenes in which the methylvinylidene isomer comprises a high percentage of the total olefin composition is described in U.S. Patents 4,152,499 and 4,605,808, the disclosures of each of which are incorporated herein by reference.

In one embodiment, the carboxylic acid acylating agent is a hydrocarbon substituted succinic acid or anhydride. The substituted succinic acid or anhydride consists of hydrocarbon-based substituent groups and succinic groups wherein the substituent groups are derived from a polyalkene, said acid or anhydride being characterized by the presence within its structure of an average of at least about 0.9 succinic group for each equivalent weight of substituent groups, and in one embodiment about 0.9 to about 2.5 succinic groups for each equivalent weight of substituent groups. The polyalkene generally has number average molecular weight (\bar{M}_n) of at least about 700, and in one embodiment about 700 to about 2000, and in one embodiment about 900 to about 1800. The ratio between the weight average molecular weight (\bar{M}_w) and the (\bar{M}_n) (that is, the \bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n) can range from about 1 to about 10, or about 1.5 to about 5. In one embodiment the polyalkene has

an \bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n value of about 2.5 to about 5. For purposes of this invention, the number of equivalent weights of substituent groups is deemed to be the number corresponding to the quotient obtained by dividing the \bar{M}_n value of the polyalkene from which the substituent is derived into the total weight of the substituent groups present in the substituted succinic acid. Thus, if a substituted succinic acid is characterized by a total weight of substituent group of 40,000 and the \bar{M}_n value for the polyalkene from which the substituent groups are derived is 2000, then that substituted succinic acylating agent is characterized by a total of 20 (40,000/2000=20) equivalent weights of substituent groups.

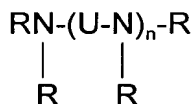
In one embodiment the carboxylic acid acylating agent is a substituted succinic acid or anhydride, said substituted succinic acid or anhydride consisting of hydrocarbon-based substituent groups and succinic groups wherein the substituent groups are derived from polybutene in which at least about 50% of the total units derived from butenes is derived from isobutylene. The polybutene is characterized by an \bar{M}_n value of about 1500 to about 2000 and an \bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n value of about 3 to about 4. These acids or anhydrides are characterized by the presence within their structure of an average of about 1.5 to about 2.5 succinic groups for each equivalent weight of substituent groups.

In one embodiment the carboxylic acid is at least one substituted succinic acid or anhydride, said substituted succinic acid or anhydride consisting of substituent groups and succinic groups wherein the substituent groups are derived from polybutene in which at least about 50% of the total units derived from butenes is derived from isobutylene. The polybutene has an \bar{M}_n value of about 800 to about 1200 and an \bar{M}_w/\bar{M}_n value of about 2 to about 3. The acids or anhydrides are characterized by the presence within their structure of an average of about 0.9 to about 1.2 succinic groups for each equivalent weight of substituent groups.

The amino compound is characterized by the presence within its structure of at least one $\text{HN}<$ group and can be a monoamine or polyamine. Mixtures of two or

more amino compounds can be used in the reaction with one or more acylating reagents. In one embodiment, the amino compound contains at least one primary amino group (i.e., -NH₂) and more preferably the amine is a polyamine, especially a polyamine containing at least two -NH- groups, either or both of which are primary or secondary amines. The amines may be aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, aromatic or heterocyclic amines.

Among the useful amines are the alkylene polyamines, including the polyalkylene polyamines. The alkylene polyamines include those conforming to the formula



wherein n is from 1 to about 10; each R is independently a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbyl group or a hydroxy-substituted or amine-substituted hydrocarbyl group having up to about 30 atoms, or two R groups on different nitrogen atoms can be joined together to form a U group, with the proviso that at least one R group is a hydrogen atom and U is an alkylene group of about 2 to about 10 carbon atoms. U may be ethylene or propylene. Alkylene polyamines where each R is hydrogen or an amino-substituted hydrocarbyl group with the ethylene polyamines and mixtures of ethylene polyamines are useful. Usually n will have an average value of from about 2 to about 7. Such alkylene polyamines include methylene polyamine, ethylene polyamines, propylene polyamines, butylene polyamines, pentylene polyamines, hexylene polyamines, heptylene polyamines, etc. The higher homologs of such amines and related amino alkyl-substituted piperazines are also included.

Alkylene polyamines that are useful include ethylene diamine, triethylene tetramine, propylene diamine, trimethylene diamine, hexamethylene diamine, decamethylene diamine, octamethylene diamine, di(heptamethylene) triamine, tripropylene tetramine, tetraethylene pentamine, trimethylene diamine,

pentaethylene hexamine, di(trimethylene)triamine, N-(2-aminoethyl)piperazine, 1,4-bis(2-aminoethyl)piperazine, and the like. Higher homologs as are obtained by condensing two or more of the above-illustrated alkylene amines are useful, as are mixtures of two or more of any of the afore-described polyamines.

5 Ethylene polyamines, such as those mentioned above, are especially useful for reasons of cost and effectiveness. Such polyamines are described in detail under the heading "Diamines and Higher Amines" in The Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, Second Edition, Kirk and Othmer, Volume 7, pages 27-39, Interscience Publishers, Division of John Wiley and Sons, 1965, which is hereby incorporated by
10 reference for the disclosure of useful polyamines. Such compounds are prepared most conveniently by the reaction of an alkylene chloride with ammonia or by reaction of an ethylene imine with a ring-opening reagent such as ammonia, etc. These reactions result in the production of the somewhat complex mixtures of
15 alkylene polyamines, including cyclic condensation products such as piperazines.

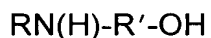
Other useful types of polyamine mixtures are those resulting from stripping
of the above-described polyamine mixtures. In this instance, lower molecular weight polyamines and volatile contaminants are removed from an alkylene polyamine mixture to leave as residue what is often termed "polyamine bottoms". In general, alkylene polyamine bottoms can be characterized as having less than 2% by weight,
20 usually less than 1% by weight material boiling below about 200°C. In the instance of ethylene polyamine bottoms, which are readily available and found to be quite useful, the bottoms contain less than about 2% by weight total diethylene triamine (DETA) or triethylene tetramine (TETA). A typical sample of such ethylene polyamine bottoms obtained from the Dow Chemical Company of Freeport, Texas
25 designated "E-100" showed a specific gravity at 15.6°C of 1.0168, a percent nitrogen by weight of 33.15 and a viscosity at 40°C of 121 centistokes. Gas chromatography analysis of such a sample indicates it contains about 0.93% "Light Ends" (most probably DETA), 0.72% TETA, 21.74% tetraethylene pentamine and

76.61% pentaethylene hexamine and higher (by weight). These alkylene polyamine bottoms include cyclic condensation products such as piperazine and higher analogs of diethylenetriamine, triethylenetetramine and the like.

These alkylene polyamine bottoms can be reacted solely with the acylating agent, in which case the amino reactant consists essentially of alkylene polyamine bottoms, or they can be used with other amines and polyamines, or alcohols or mixtures thereof. In these latter cases at least one amino reactant comprises alkylene polyamine bottoms.

Other polyamines are described in, for example, U.S. Patents 3,219,666 and 4,234,435, and these patents are hereby incorporated by reference for their disclosures of amines which can be reacted with the acylating agents described above to form useful acylated nitrogen-containing compounds.

In one embodiment, the amine may be a hydroxyamine. Typically, the hydroxyamines are primary, secondary or tertiary alkanol amines or mixtures thereof. Such amines can be represented by the formulae:

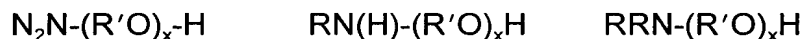


wherein each R is independently a hydrocarbyl group of one to about eight carbon atoms or hydroxyhydrocarbyl group of two to about eight carbon atoms, preferably one to about four, and R' is a divalent hydrocarbyl group of about two to about 18 carbon atoms, preferably two to about four. The group -R'-OH in such formulae represents the hydroxyhydrocarbyl group. R' can be an acyclic, alicyclic or aromatic group. Typically, R' is an acyclic straight or branched alkylene group such as an ethylene, 1,2-propylene, 1,2-butylene, 1,2-octadecylene, etc. group. Where two R groups are present in the same molecule they can be joined by a direct carbon-to-carbon bond or through a heteroatom (e.g., oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur) to form a 5-, 6-, 7- or 8-membered ring structure. Examples of such heterocyclic amines include

N-(hydroxyl lower alkyl)-morpholines, -thiomorpholines, -piperidines, -oxazolidines, -thiazolidines and the like. Typically, however, each R' is independently a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl or hexyl group.

Examples of these alkanolamines include mono-, di-, and triethanol amine, diethylethanolamine, ethylethanolamine, butyldiethanolamine, etc.

The hydroxyamines can also be an ether N-(hydroxyhydrocarbyl)-amine. These are hydroxypoly(hydrocarbyloxy) analogs of the above-described hydroxy amines (these analogs also include hydroxyl-substituted oxyalkylene analogs). Such N-(hydroxyhydrocarbyl) amines can be conveniently prepared by reaction of epoxides with afore-described amines and can be represented by the formulae:



wherein x is a number from about 2 to about 15 and R and R' are as described above. R may also be a hydroxypoly(hydrocarbyloxy) group.

The acylated nitrogen-containing compounds include amine salts, amides, imides, amidines, amidic acids, amidic salts and imidazolines as well as mixtures thereof. To prepare the acylated nitrogen-containing compounds from the acylating reagents and the amino compounds, one or more acylating reagents and one or more amino compounds are heated, optionally in the presence of a normally liquid, substantially inert organic liquid solvent/diluent, at temperatures in the range of about 80°C up to the decomposition point of either the reactants or the carboxylic derivative but normally at temperatures in the range of about 100°C up to about 300°C provided 300°C does not exceed the decomposition point. Temperatures of about 125°C to about 250°C are normally used. The acylating reagent and the amino compound are reacted in amounts sufficient to provide from about one-half equivalent up to about 2 moles of amino compound per equivalent of acylating reagent.

Many patents have described useful acylated nitrogen-containing compounds including U.S. Patents 3,172,892; 3,219,666; 3,272,746; 3,310,492; 3,341,542; 3,444,170; 3,455,831; 3,455,832; 3,576,743; 3,630,904; 3,632,511; 3,804,763; and 4,234,435. A typical acylated nitrogen-containing compound of this class is that made by reacting a poly(isobutene)-substituted succinic acid acylating agent (e.g., anhydride, acid, ester, etc.) wherein the poly(isobutene) substituent has between about 50 to about 400 carbon atoms with a mixture of ethylenepolyamines having about 3 to about 7 amino nitrogen atoms per ethylenepolyamine and about 1 to about 6 ethylene units. The above-noted U.S. patents are hereby incorporated by reference for their disclosure of acylated amino compounds and their method of preparation.

Another type of acylated nitrogen-containing compound belonging to this class is that made by reacting a carboxylic acid acylating agent with a polyamine, wherein the polyamine is the product made by condensing a hydroxy material with an amine. These compounds are described in U.S. Patent 5,053,152 which is incorporated herein by reference for its disclosure of such compounds.

Another type of acylated nitrogen-containing compound belonging to this class is that made by reacting the afore-described alkyleneamines with the afore-described substituted succinic acids or anhydrides and aliphatic monocarboxylic acids having from 2 to about 22 carbon atoms. In these types of acylated nitrogen compounds, the mole ratio of succinic acid to monocarboxylic acid ranges from about 1:0.1 to about 1:1. Typical of the monocarboxylic acid are formic acid, acetic acid, dodecanoic acid, butanoic acid, oleic acid, stearic acid, the commercial mixture of stearic acid isomers known as isostearic acid, tall oil acid, etc. Such materials are more fully described in U.S. Patents 3,216,936 and 3,250,715 which are hereby incorporated by reference for their disclosures in this regard.

Still another type of acylated nitrogen-containing compound that may be useful is the product of the reaction of a fatty monocarboxylic acid of about 12-30 carbon atoms and the afore-described alkyleneamines, typically, ethylene-, propylene- or trimethylenepolyamines containing 2 to 8 amino groups and mixtures thereof. The fatty monocarboxylic acids are generally mixtures of straight and branched chain fatty carboxylic acids containing 12-30 carbon atoms. A widely used type of acylated nitrogen compound is made by reacting the afore-described alkylene polyamines with a mixture of fatty acids having from 5 to about 30 mole percent straight chain acid and about 70 to about 95% mole branched chain fatty acids. Among the commercially available mixtures are those known widely in the trade as isostearic acid. These mixtures are produced as a by-product from the dimerization of unsaturated fatty acids as described in U.S. Patents 2,812,342 and 3,260,671.

The branched chain fatty acids can also include those in which the branch is not alkyl in nature, such as found in phenyl and cyclohexyl stearic acid and the chloro-stearic acids. Branched chain fatty carboxylic acid/alkylene polyamine products have been described extensively in the art. See for example, U.S. Patents 3,110,673; 3,251,853; 3,326,801; 3,337,459; 3,405,064; 3,429,674; 3,468,639; 3,857,791. These patents are hereby incorporated by reference for their disclosure of fatty acid/polyamine condensates for use in lubricating oil formulations.

In one embodiment, the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition is characterized by a chlorine level of no more than about 10 ppm, and in one embodiment no more than about 7 ppm, and in one embodiment no more than about 5 ppm. This necessitates that the acylated nitrogen-containing compound be chlorine-free or contain such low chlorine levels that the addition of such compound to the lubricating oil composition results in the formation of a lubricating oil composition with the above-indicated chlorine level. In one embodiment, the acylated nitrogen-containing compound has a chlorine content of no more than about 50 ppm, and in one embodiment no more than about 25 ppm,

and in one embodiment no more than about 10 ppm. In one embodiment, the acylated nitrogen-containing compound is chlorine free.

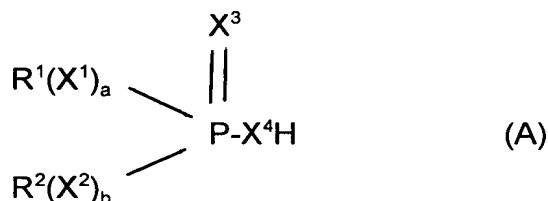
5 The acylated nitrogen-containing compound is typically employed in the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition at a concentration in the range of about 1 to about 25% percent by weight, and in one embodiment about 5% to about 15% by weight. These compounds can be added directly to the lubricating oil composition. In one embodiment, however, they are diluted with a substantially inert, normally liquid organic diluent such as mineral oil, naphtha, benzene, toluene or xylene to form an additive concentrate. These concentrates usually contain from about 1% to about 99% by weight, and in one embodiment about 10% to about 90% by weight of the diluent.

10 As indicated above, when the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition is a non-consumable oil, optionally it may contain a minor amount of one or more EP additives comprised of a metal and phosphorus, provided that the amount of phosphorus contributed to the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition by this additive does not exceed about 0.08% by weight of the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition. In one embodiment, the phosphorus content does not exceed about 0.07% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.06% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.05% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.04% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.035% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.03% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.025% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.02% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.015% by weight, and in one embodiment the phosphorus content does not exceed about 0.01% by weight. The phosphorus-containing acids useful in making these EP additives may be represented by the formula

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wherein in Formula (A): X^1 , X^2 , X^3 and X^4 are independently oxygen or sulfur, a and b are independently zero or one, R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrocarbyl groups, and R^3 can be hydrogen. Illustrative examples include: dihydrocarbyl phosphinodithioic acids, S-hydrocarbyl hydrocarbyl phosphonotrithioic acids, O-hydrocarbyl hydrocarbyl phosphinodithioic acids, S,S-dihydrocarbyl phosphorotetrathioic acids, O,S-dihydrocarbyl phosphorotrithioic acids, O,O-dihydrocarbyl phosphorodithioic acids, and the like.

Useful phosphorus-containing acids are phosphorus- and sulfur-containing acids. These include those acids wherein in Formula (A) at least one X^3 or X^4 is sulfur, and in one embodiment both X^3 and X^4 are sulfur, at least one X^1 or X^2 is oxygen or sulfur, and in one embodiment both X^1 and X^2 are oxygen, and a and b are each 1. Mixtures of these acids may be employed in accordance with this invention.

R^1 and R^2 in Formula (A) are independently hydrocarbyl groups that are preferably free from acetylenic unsaturation and usually also from ethylenic unsaturation and in one embodiment have from about 1 to about 50 carbon atoms, and in one embodiment from about 1 to about 30 carbon atoms, and in one embodiment from about 3 to about 18 carbon atoms, and in one embodiment from about 3 to about 8 carbon atoms. Each R^1 and R^2 can be the same as the other, although they may be different and either or both may be mixtures. Examples of R^1 and R^2 groups include isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, amyl, 4-methyl-2-pentyl, isooctyl, decyl, dodecyl, tetradecyl, 2-pentenyl, dodecenyl, phenyl, naphthyl, alkylphenyl, alkylphenyl, alkylphenylalkyl, alkylphenylalkyl, alkylphenylalkyl, and

mixtures thereof. Particular examples of useful mixtures include, for example, isopropyl/n-butyl; isopropyl/secondary butyl; isopropyl/4-methyl-2-pentyl; isopropyl/2-ethyl-1-hexyl; isopropyl/isooctyl; isopropyl/decyl; isopropyl/dodecyl; and isopropyl/tridecyl.

5 R^3 in Formula (A) can be hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group (e.g., alkyl) of 1 to about 12 carbon atoms, and in one embodiment 1 to about 4 carbon atoms.

10 The preparation of the metal salts of the phosphorus-containing acids may be effected by reaction with the metal or metal oxide. Simply mixing and heating these two reactants is sufficient to cause the reaction to take place and the resulting product is sufficiently pure for the purposes of this invention. Typically the formation of the salt is carried out in the presence of a diluent such as an alcohol, water or diluent oil. Neutral salts are prepared by reacting one equivalent of metal oxide or hydroxide with one equivalent of the acid. Basic metal salts are prepared by adding an excess of (more than one equivalent) the metal oxide or hydroxide to one
15 equivalent of phosphorodithioic acid.

20 The metal salts of the phosphorus-containing acids represented by Formula (A) which are useful include those salts containing Group IA, IIA or IIB metals, aluminum, lead, tin, iron, molybdenum, manganese, cobalt, nickel or bismuth. Zinc is a useful metal. These salts can be neutral salts or basic salts. Examples of useful metal salts of phosphorus-containing acids, and methods for preparing such salts are found in the prior art such as U.S. Patents 4,263,150, 4,289,635; 4,308,154; 4,322,479; 4,417,990; and 4,466,895, and the disclosures of these patents are hereby incorporated by reference. These salts include the Group II metal phosphorodithioates such as zinc dicyclohexylphosphorodithioate, zinc dioctylphosphorodithioate, barium di(heptylphenyl)-phosphorodithioate, cadmium dinonylphosphorodithioate, and the zinc salt of a phosphorodithioic acid produced
25 by the reaction of phosphorus pentasulfide with an equimolar mixture of isopropyl alcohol and n-hexyl alcohol.

In one embodiment, the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition is characterized by the absences of the foregoing EP additives.

5 An advantage of using the foregoing low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil compositions is that these oil compositions may be easier to dispose of from an environmental perspective than conventional lubricating oils. This is due to the low level or absence of EP agents containing phosphorus and metal in these lubricating oil compositions. Conventional lubricating oil compositions, on the other hand, typically contain relatively high concentrations of these EP agents.

10 The low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition may contain, in addition to the acylated nitrogen-containing compounds referred to above, one or more detergents or dispersants of the ashless type. The ashless detergents and dispersants are so called despite the fact that, depending on their constitution, they may upon combustion yield a non-volatile material such as boric oxide or phosphorus pentoxide; however, they do not ordinarily contain metal and therefore do not yield a metal-containing ash on combustion. Many types are known in the art, and are suitable for use in the these lubricating oil compositions. These include the following:

15 (1) Reaction products of carboxylic acids (or derivatives thereof) containing at least about 34, and in one embodiment at least about 54 carbon atoms, with organic hydroxy compounds such as phenols and alcohols, and/or basic inorganic materials. Examples of these "carboxylic dispersants" are described in many U.S. Patents including 3,219,666; 4,234,435; and 4,938,881.

20 (2) Reaction products of relatively high molecular weight aliphatic or alicyclic halides with amines, preferably oxyalkylene polyamines. These may be characterized as "amine dispersants" and examples thereof are described for example, in the following U.S. Patents: 3,275,554; 3,438,757; 3,454,555; and 3,565,804.

25 (3) Reaction products of alkyl phenols in which the alkyl group contains at least about 30 carbon atoms with aldehydes (especially formaldehyde) and

amines (especially polyalkylene polyamines), which may be characterized as "Mannich dispersants." The materials described in the following U.S. Patents are illustrative: 3,649,229; 3,697,574; 3,725,277; 3,725,480; 3,726,882; and 3,980,569.

5 (4) Products obtained by post-treating the amine or Mannich dispersants with such reagents as urea, thiourea, carbon disulfide, aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids, hydrocarbon-substituted succinic anhydrides, nitriles, epoxides, boron compounds, phosphorus compounds or the like. Exemplary materials of this kind are described in the following U.S. Patents: 3,639,242; 3,649,229; 3,649,659; 3,658,836; 3,697,574; 3,702,757; 3,703,536; 3,704,308; and 3,708,422.

10 (5) Interpolymers of oil-solubilizing monomers such as decyl methacrylate, vinyl decyl ether and high molecular weight olefins with monomers containing polar substituents, e.g., aminoalkyl acrylates or acrylamides and poly-(oxyethylene)-substituted acrylates. These may be characterized as "polymeric dispersants" and examples thereof are disclosed in the following U.S. Patents: 3,329,658; 3,449,250; 3,519,565; 3,666,730; 3,687,849; and 3,702,300.

15 The above-noted patents are incorporated by reference herein for their disclosures of ashless dispersants.

20 When the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition is used as a non-consumable oil it may contain one or more detergents or dispersants of the ash-producing type. Thus, in this embodiment, the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition is a low-ash lubricating oil composition. The ash-producing detergents are exemplified by oil-soluble neutral and basic salts of alkali or alkaline earth metals with sulfonic acids, carboxylic acids, or organic phosphorus acids characterized by at least one direct carbon-to-phosphorus linkage such as those prepared by the treatment of an olefin polymer (e.g., polyisobutene 25 having a molecular weight of 1000) with a phosphorizing agent such as phosphorus trichloride, phosphorus heptasulfide, phosphorus pentasulfide, phosphorus trichloride and sulfur, white phosphorus and a sulfur halide, or phosphorothioic chlo-

ride. The most commonly used salts of such acids are those of sodium, potassium, lithium, calcium, magnesium, strontium and barium. The concentration of ash-producing detergent or dispersant in the low-ash lubricating oil composition may be in the range that is sufficient to provide an ash content of up to about 2% by weight as measured by the test procedure in ASTM D874-96, and in one embodiment up to about 1.5% by weight, and in one embodiment up to about 1% by weight, and in one embodiment up to about 0.6% by weight.

The low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition may also contain other lubricant additives known in the art. These include, for example, corrosion-inhibiting agents, antioxidants, viscosity modifiers, pour point depressants, friction modifiers, fluidity modifiers, anti-foam agents, etc.

Pour point depressants are used to improve the low temperature properties of oil-based compositions. See, for example, page 8 of "Lubricant Additives" by C.V. Smalheer and R. Kennedy Smith (Lezius Hiles Co. publishers, Cleveland, Ohio, 1967). Examples of useful pour point depressants are polymethacrylates; polyacrylates; polyacrylamides; condensation products of haloparaffin waxes and aromatic compounds; vinyl carboxylate polymers; and terpolymers of dialkylfumarates, vinyl esters of fatty acids and alkyl vinyl ethers. Pour point depressants are described in U.S. Patents 2,387,501; 2,015,748; 2,655,479; 1,815,022; 2,191,498; 2,666,746; 2,721,877; 2,721,878; and 3,250,715 which are herein incorporated by reference for their relevant disclosures.

Anti-foam agents are used to reduce or prevent the formation of stable foam. Typical anti-foam agents include silicones or organic polymers. Additional antifoam compositions are described in "Foam Control Agents," by Henry T. Kerner (Noyes Data Corporation, 1976), pages 125-162.

Each of the foregoing additives, when used, is used at a functionally effective amount to impart the desired properties to the lubricant. Thus, for example, if an additive is a corrosion inhibitor, a functionally effective amount of this corrosion

inhibitor would be an amount sufficient to impart the desired corrosion inhibition characteristics to the lubricant. Generally, the concentration of each of these additives, when used, ranges from about 0.001% to about 20% by weight, and in one embodiment about 0.01% to about 10% by weight based on the total weight of the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition.

These additives can be added directly to the low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil composition. In one embodiment, however, they are diluted with a substantially inert, normally liquid organic diluent such as mineral oil, naphtha, benzene, toluene or xylene to form an additive concentrate. These concentrates usually contain from about 1% to about 99% by weight, and in one embodiment about 10% to about 90% by weight of such diluent.

Examples 1 and 2

Examples of low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free lubricating oil compositions that may be used are disclosed below (in the table below all numerical values provided for the components of the composition (except the foam inhibitor) are in percent by weight).

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
5	Base oil - - SAE 5W-30 Polyalpha olefin oil mixture (80% by wt. polyalphaolefin having viscosity of 6 cSt @ 100°C and 20% by wt. polyalphaolefin having viscosity of 4 cSt 100°C)	83.4 -
10	Base oil - - SAE 5W-20 100N mineral oil having a viscosity of 21.50 cSt at 40°C and 4.41 cSt at 100°C, a sulfur content of 0.0010% by weight, a nitrogen content of 0.0002% by weight, and a hydrocarbon content that is 100% saturates.	-- 81.7
15	Dispersant - - Succinimide derived from high vinylidene polyisobutene (number average molecular weight (Mn) equal to about 1000) substituted succinic anhydride and tetraethylene pentamine (Nitrogen content = 3.3% by wt.) dispersed in oil (40% by wt. diluent oil)	14.3 --
20	Dispersant - - Succinimide derived from polyisobutene (Mn equal to about 1000) substituted succinic anhydride and polyethylene amines (Nitrogen content = 0.97% by wt.; chlorine content = 0% by wt.) dispersed in oil (40% by wt. diluent oil)	-- 16.67
25	Viscosity modifier - - LZ 7067 (a product of Lubrizol identified as an olefin copolymer)	0.8 --
30	Viscosity modifier - - Styrene-maleic anhydride copolymer dispersed in oil (53.6% by wt. diluent oil)	-- 0.3
	Diluent oil (100N mineral oil)	0.38 0.13
	Corrosion inhibitor - - Pluradyne FL11 (product of BASF identified as an ethylene oxide-propylene oxide copolymer)	0.02 0.02
35	Antioxidant - - Nonylated diphenylamine	0.6 0.6
	Antioxidant - - 4,4'-methylene bis 2,6-di-t-butyl phenol	0.5 0.5
40	Foam inhibitor - - Polydimethyl siloxane dispersed in kerosene (90% kerosene)	50ppm --
	Physical properties:	
	Viscosity @ 100°C, cSt	11.59 6.90
	Viscosity @ 40°C, cSt	70.71 38.66
	Viscosity index	159 139
45	High Temperature/High Sheer @ 150°C, cP (ASTM D 4683)	3.46 2.37
	Chemical properties:	
	% S, P, Zn, Si, Ca, Mg, Na, Halogen	nil nil
	% N, wt%	0.492 0.181
50	% Si, ppm	2 --

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1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the current situation and the goals that need to be achieved.